

violence, pregnancy, and C-sections. But this bill makes it illegal to deny coverage due to any preexisting condition, including breast cancer.

Today fewer than half of America's women can get health insurance through work because they stay at home, work at small businesses, or work part time. But through this bill, every woman can buy coverage through the exchange that will cover maternity and preventative care.

This is why women in America need this health care reform bill and why I strongly support this legislation.

THE MAJORITY'S TRILLION DOLLAR HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, as the House prepares to address the latest proposal by the majority to have the government take over our health care system, I want to say that there are many things wrong with this trillion dollar health care plan.

It's bad for our economic health. It's a prescription for larger deficits, higher taxes, more job losses.

But worst of all is what it does to women, families, seniors, and small businesses. Women make two-thirds of the health care decisions in our country. As mothers, wives, and daughters, we work to protect the family members around us. In fact, the vast majority of America's health care professionals are women, 90 percent of the nurses; and almost a third are doctors. If PELOSI's health care proposal becomes law, women will no longer be able to make those responsible decisions for their families. Government bureaucrats will.

There's no doubt that we need changes in our health care system. But let's not take away power from moms and turn it over to the government and call that reform.

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of health insurance reform for many reasons but especially for how it helps the 50 million Americans living in rural areas.

There are three main problems people in rural America face when it comes to the current health care system: lack of choice of affordable health insurance, lack of access to health care providers, and certainly a lack of access to quality health care and preventative care.

Our health insurance reform bill, H.R. 3962, addresses all of these issues and more for rural Americans.

Fifteen percent of people living in rural areas live in poverty, and one in

five uninsured Americans lives in rural areas. This bill will extend coverage, and the public option will give choice to Americans living in rural areas. This bill will make coverage affordable. It will invest in our health care infrastructure by training thousands of new doctors, nurses, and other health care providers and will put them on the ground where they're needed, especially in our rural areas.

Finally, this bill gives all Americans free access to preventative care and encourages and rewards high-quality care. It is what we need in rural America and across the country.

REJECT THE PELOSI HEALTH CARE PLAN AND START OVER ON RESPONSIBLE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for months millions of concerned citizens voiced their strong opposition to a government takeover of health care. Yet last week Speaker PELOSI unveiled her latest plan for a government takeover of health care.

The Pelosi health care plan does nothing to control the rising costs of health care. But struggling businesses that can't afford to provide health insurance coverage to their employees face higher taxes.

According to an economic model developed by President Obama's chief economic adviser, an estimated 5.5 million jobs could be lost as a result of the taxes included in the Pelosi health care plan.

At a time when several States are struggling with double-digit unemployment, pushing policies that will raise taxes and increase job losses is the wrong direction to take our country.

It's time for Congress to reject the Pelosi health care plan and start over on responsible health care reform.

THE HEALTH CARE BILL

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are going to deliver on what American families and businesses have been asking for when it comes to their health: one, meaningful, secure, and stable insurance; two, improved Medicare for our seniors; and, three, vital consumer protections.

For families with health insurance, health reform will provide coverage you can count on. All Americans will have affordable options even if you change your job or if your employer does not even offer health insurance. Under the revised health bill, families will not have to worry about insurance companies canceling their coverage because someone in their family gets sick or is diagnosed with cancer or another

illness. Health insurance companies will no longer be able to bar you from insurance just because you've had cancer that is in remission or you're recovering from a heart ailment. We will ensure that our neighbors are not forced to go bankrupt after a serious illness strikes. What is insurance for after all? It must be meaningful.

American families have been doing everything right in paying their premiums and copays even as those costs have risen astronomically. Our health care bill says that, in return, families must have coverage that is meaningful, stable, and secure.

WHAT WSJ HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE PELOSI HEALTH BILL: "THE WORST BILL EVER"

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I lament hearing that people who attend TEA parties are somehow uninformed or misinformed Americans. They're hard-working Americans who are informed and have taken the time to become informed, and they know what's in this bill.

But if you think that they have been misled into thinking that this bill is an extreme bill by those of us who are in the Republican Party, listen to what the Wall Street Journal says. Go to wsj.com.

They call this "the worst bill ever." "Epic new spending and taxes, pricier insurance, rationed care, dishonest accounting: the Pelosi health bill has it all."

And it concludes by saying: "Critics will say we are exaggerating, but we believe it is no stretch to say that Mrs. PELOSI's handiwork ranks with the Smoot-Hawley tariff as among the worst bills Congress has ever seriously contemplated."

This is not TEA Party extremists; this is the Wall Street Journal.

A NEW HEALTH CARE BILL

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, finding a uniquely American solution to ensuring that all Americans have access to meaningful, affordable health coverage has been an unfulfilled goal for decades. Action now is both a moral and economic imperative for our Nation.

Health care legislation before the House builds on the hard work done by three health care committees over many months and responds to feedback from the American people. It builds on America's public-private system. And it is paid for.

The legislation meets the goals of health reform: enhanced protection for those with health coverage; new, affordable choices for individuals and small businesses; strengthened Medicare for our seniors; improved delivery

of care with better health outcomes for all Americans; and the containment of rapidly rising costs of health care.

The status quo is unaffordable and unsustainable. Passing health care reform benefits all of us: families, seniors, businesses, and the Nation. I look forward to voting for this historic legislation and meeting the goals of health care reform for all Americans. Now is the time to act.

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HEALTH CARE

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on September 12, taxpayers sent an unequivocal message to lawmakers that smaller government, limited regulation, responsible spending, and keeping government out of people's lives are principles that too many in Washington need to be reminded of.

Hundreds of Texans took to the streets of Washington, D.C., to protest Big Government and the devastating policies the Obama administration and this Congress are pursuing. Their voices were heard and we had better not forget what they say.

Now we need everyone's voice more than ever as we are asked to pass a \$1.2 trillion government takeover of our health care system. Through town hall meetings and the thousands of e-mails and letters we receive each week, my constituents have been clear: They don't like this bill.

It's now Congress's responsibility to listen to our districts and respond, representing the constituents who sent us here. They're speaking loud and clear—and they expect a response.

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, for the past 6 months I have talked with my constituents in southern Nevada about the need for health care reform that lowers cost, improves access, increases choice, and strengthens Medicare. I have solicited input from my constituents by sending them health care surveys, encouraging them to share their health care stories, and holding Congress on the Corner.

From roundtable discussions with doctors, providers, and small business owners, to town halls, I have listened to the concerns Nevadans have about our current health care system as well as the proposed reforms. One thing is clear: The status quo just is unacceptable.

The legislation introduced in the House last week requires a comprehensive examination, and I will continue to carefully review all aspects of the bill. But I'm pleased that the legisla-

tion includes important provisions that will help Nevada's seniors, young adults, women, and small businesses.

From ending discrimination based on preexisting conditions to strengthening Medicare by reducing waste and closing the doughnut hole, there are a number of very positive aspects of this bill which I strongly support. It's time to give them a serious look.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, the American people have said that the number one thing they're concerned about with regard to health care is the cost of health care. The Speaker's 1,990-page government takeover of health care raises the cost of insurance for American families and it will add to our already exploding debt.

The cost of the Speaker's bill is now at \$1.3 trillion and counting. It's a debt that will be paid for by our kids and our grandkids. And, to make matters worse, it will increase taxes, impose job-killing mandates, and cut seniors' Medicare benefits.

There's a better way. Republicans have outlined a plan to lower cost and expand access at a price our Nation can afford. This includes letting families buy health insurance across State lines; allowing small businesses to pool and offer health insurance to their employees at much lower cost, just like big businesses and unions can today; giving States the tools to create innovative reforms that lower costs; and ending junk lawsuits that contribute to higher health care costs.

Given all that's at stake, the American people deserve to see the Republicans' smart, fiscally responsible plans debated here on the House floor side-by-side with the Speaker's 1,990-page bill.

I hope we will see that debate and vote as soon as possible.

HEALTH REFORM AND THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I can't stand here today and tell you that this legislation will solve every health care problem we face as a Nation, but I can tell you this. There's 460,000 Nevadans that have no health insurance at all. In my district alone, this bill will provide coverage for 163,000 of my fellow Nevadans.

It's not just the uninsured that will benefit. In Las Vegas, more than 200,000 households will receive credits to make insurance more affordable and over 16,000 small businesses will be provided with a tax credit to make it easier for them to provide coverage to their employees.

The bill improves coverage for seniors by closing the doughnut hole, eliminating copays for preventive services, and extending the solvency of the Medicare program for another 5 years. It eliminates preexisting conditions as a reason to deny coverage. It lifts the lifetime limits. I have 10-year-old children who are juvenile diabetics in my office that have already exceeded their lifetime caps. This bill eliminates that.

The current health care system is unsustainable.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. The American people want health care reform that lowers the cost of health insurance rather than increasing the cost of government, but it looks like that's exactly what they're getting in the Pelosi health care bill.

Here are the numbers: 1,990 pages; \$1.2 trillion in the Pelosi plan in new Federal spending over the next 10 years; \$729.5 billion in new tax increases. It's just extraordinary.

Within the confines of the bill, 43 entitlement programs are created or expanded; 111 additional offices, bureaus, commissions, programs, and bureaucracies; and this legislation uses the mandatory legal language—the word “shall”—3,425 times. And this isn't a government takeover of health care? Give me a break.

The Pelosi health care plan is a freight train of big government, higher taxes, and mandates—and it must be opposed. The American people deserve a better plan.

You can go to healthcare.gop.gov and start getting the details of a plan that will lower the cost of health insurance instead of growing the size of government.

WHERE IS THE REPUBLICAN HEALTH REFORM BILL?

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it will be interesting to go to that Web site and find what is the so-called Republican beginning of a proposal, because 139 days ago the Republican leadership promised to introduce their own health reform bill and yet we are still waiting.

Since the mysterious Republican plan hasn't been introduced, the American people can't really see what's in it. It's all being written behind closed doors. What little we do know of what they are planning should bring a smile to the faces of insurance company CEOs.

Their leader, Mr. BOEHNER, admitted the other day that their collection of bills does not end discrimination based